

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

MILAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

AUGUST 7, 2012

The Board of School Trustees met for a work session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 7, 2012. Attending were Board members Linda Baker, Gregory Lewis, Edward Amberger, and Timothy Tuttle. Randy Kirk was absent. Also attending was Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reale and director of operations, John Ferguson. President, Timothy Tuttle, presided. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the redrawing of the bus routes. Superintendent Reale and Mr. Ferguson explained the process of reducing the number of routes from sixteen to fourteen as a way to save taxpayer money. They stated the goal of no more than 55 students per bus and no child being picked up before 6:45 a.m. It was noted the first day of school went fairly well with only a few children getting on the wrong bus in the afternoon. Superintendent Reale commented there are still changes being made in order to lighten the load on certain routes. Board members expressed concerns with students being on the bus for lengthy periods of time, but it was noted this has always been the case for those students picked up first in the morning and dropped off last in the afternoon. They were also concerned with the railroad crossing on the road by the golf course. Superintendent Reale stated this was on Jim Berger's route and Mr. Berger was taking all necessary precautions at the tracks and would never cross if he felt it was unsafe. Another concern expressed was drivers not stopping if a child was not at the designated stop when the bus arrived. Superintendent Reale noted drivers are to slow down for stops, but if they do not see anyone, they are to continue their route.

Mr. Amberger questioned how it was known to reduce two more routes, when one route was eliminated last spring. Mr. Ferguson stated his intention was to eliminate one route this year, but it was decided to eliminate two routes due to the small numbers on some of the buses. He noted no one likes change, but once the initial frustration is gone, things should settle down. Mr. Amberger expressed his concern that the Board was not notified of these proposed changes before they were initiated.

Superintendent Reale asked him to double check the minutes on this issue.

Mr. Lewis noted his concern with one of the bus drivers telling patrons to not worry about calling the schools or the central office, but going straight to the Board with any concerns over the bus routing.

Mr. Ferguson was asked to monitor the buses daily for student count and arrival time. This is to be done every day until the August meeting. Bus times are to be adjusted so no student is picked up before 6:45 a.m., and no student arrives at school later than 7:52 a.m. Mr. Tuttle asked for all the data to be put on a chart for the meeting.

The next item discussed was the new compensation package for bus drivers. Superintendent Reale explained the new and old benefits he wanted to offer the drivers. He explained the three different route pays, and noted the career center routes were now free standing, so no driver had to be laid off. Mrs. Baker expressed her concerns for the drivers who last year ran a regular route and the career center route, and now would be receiving only half pay. Superintendent Reale noted the following package: Corporation will pay for the CDL physical, four sick days and one personal day per year accumulating to thirty days, sick leave pay of \$50.00 per unused sick day per year, bereavement leave, health insurance with corporation paying 10% more than currently, \$50,000 in life insurance, \$100 to drivers who park their buses at home, and \$100 for the CDL test after the driver has worked for the corporation for six months. Board members discussed the package and gave Superintendent Reale permission to inform the drivers of the proposal.

A discussion was held on the academic logo sign. It was noted Board policy states the Indian is our mascot symbol for athletics. Superintendent Reale stated the “M” logo is used for such things as letterhead and welcome signs. Mrs. Baker and Mr. Lewis stated they had not heard any derogatory remarks about the “M”, but Mr. Amberger had a concern for the elderly patrons who did not understand the separation of the two emblems. After a short discussion, the issue was laid to rest.

Mr. Lewis motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Baker. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned 10:00 p.m.